

2015 - Clarie Hazel

Reprinted from TownCryer News (Aug. 2015)

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The Halifax County Exhibition Committee appreciates the support shown each year from the selfless volunteers who freely give of their time and talents to ensure the success of this agricultural fair.

"Every year we try to pick someone from a different area of the Exhibition," explains Exhibition Office Manager, Juli Oxford. "For instance, long time exhibitors, past superintendents, or those involved with light horse, draft horse, dairy, oxen, poultry, home and garden exhibits are considered. Along with organizers, grounds maintenance and more, it's a difficult task to pick just one individual overall. This year we picked Clarie Hazel."



Clarie Hazel with his team of Lion and Bright. Contributed photo

Oxford continues, "Mr. Hazel is from Scotch Village and he has shown oxen at our Ex for more than 30 years. He does not have a team now, however, but he still comes to watch the ox pull and connect with longtime friends."

"Of all the fairs I go to, Musquodoboit is my prime one," insists Mr. Hazel. "I went last year to watch the pull and they gave me a team to take in the ring. Everyone is so friendly there and nice."

Over the decades, the contribution oxen teams made to farm life has all but been forgotten and the cost to own a team these days is excessive, according to the team master. "I'm not a professional that enters pulls – some are but, I'm not - I'm not in that class. I've won a couple of pulls but if I only went for the money, I may as well stay home," he chuckles.

"Most young farmers can't afford teams today," Mr. Hazel goes on to say. "They're too expensive. Us ol' timers are fading away and the young ones just can't afford to keep oxen teams. The cost is phenomenal."

Mr. Hazel will be officially recognized as Halifax County Exhibition 2015 Fair Person of the Year in the main ring on Aug. 19 during the official opening.

"We will be honouring Clarie right before the Ox Pull Wednesday night," smiles Oxford. "I'm sure he will be pleased and likely will have lots of stories of past exhibitions to share with us."